

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 311286
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311286

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ISSUE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE USE
IF ROKG PUBLICIZES PRIVATE ASSURANCES ON BLUE HOUSE
BUGGING ISSUE N.B.--AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS MAY BE RE-
REQUIRED AFTER WE SEE ROKG STATEMENTS.

QUOTE

QUESTION: ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM SEOUL, THE ROKG IS
CLAIMING THAT WE HAVE GIVEN IT OUR PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT
WE HAD NOT BUGGED THE BLUE HOUSE AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED IN
THE U.S. PRESS. HAVE WE ACTUALLY GIVEN THE KOREANS SUCH
ASSURANCES?

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ANSWER: I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THAT. AS YOU KNOW, WE
DO NOT PUBLICLY CONFIRM OR DENY ALLEGATIONS OF INTELLI-
GENCE ACTIVITIES. SIMILARLY, WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY
THE EXISTENCE OF ANY PRIVATE COMMENTS THAT WE MAY HAVE MADE
ON SUCH ALLEGATIONS.

QUESTION: CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER WE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER PRIVATELY WITH THE KOREANS?

ANSWER: I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THAT.

QUESTION: YOUR NO COMMENT STANCE IS AT ODDS WITH WHAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS SAYING. ARE YOU IMPLYING THEIR COMMENTS ARE INACCURATE?

ANSWER: NO, I AM NOT, AND YOU SHOULD NOT DRAW THAT INFERENCE. I AM SIMPLY MAKING NO COMMENT ON WHAT IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN SAID.

QUESTION: CAN WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN THAT THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL KOREAN GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED BRIBERY OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN HAVE BEEN INACCURATE?

ANSWER: AS WE HAVE SAID ON MANY PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON A MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION. UNQUOTE

2. GUIDANCE WILL OF COURSE BE ADJUSTED TO CONFORM TO ACTUAL FORM AND CONTENT OF ANY PUBLIC ROKG COMMENTS ON ISSUE.
ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES, LISTENING DEVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE311286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EHURWITZ:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760473-0364
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761212/aaaaajzf.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS GUIDANCE: BLUE HOUSE BUGGING ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, US
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006